

Appl. S.N. 10/822,234

Amdt. Dated 01/05/06

Reply to Office Action of 10/05/2005

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The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (original) A system for determining whether a resident of a home is inactive within the home or away from the home, comprising:

at least one motion sensor positioned to detect a first activity and to transmit a first signal indicative of the first activity;

at least one exterior door sensor positioned to detect motion of an exterior door of the home and to transmit a second signal indicative of the motion; and

a monitoring center in communication with the at least one motion sensor and the at least one exterior door sensor, wherein the monitoring center is adapted to determine whether a resident of the home is inactive within the home or is away from the home based upon the timing of the first signal relative to the second signal.

2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one motion sensor comprises a timer adapted to run a pre-selected time period after the detection of the first activity.

3. (original) The system of claim 2, wherein the pre-selected time period is no greater than five minutes.

4. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a communications relay panel for relaying the first and second signals to the monitoring center.

5. (original) The system of claim 4, wherein the at least one motion sensor comprises a wireless sensor.

6. (original) The system of claim 4, wherein the at least one exterior door sensor comprises a wireless sensor.

7. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one motion sensor comprises one or more sensors from the group consisting of inside door sensors, cabinet sensors, kitchen sensors, appliance sensors, cabinet drawer sensors, bed sensors, couch sensors, and chair sensors.

8. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one motion sensor comprises:

a detector for detecting activity, the detector comprising a signal processor and a sensing

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portion; and

a transmitter for transmitting the first signal indicative of the first activity.

9. (original) The system of claim 8, wherein the detector comprises a signal processor and a sensing portion.

10. (original) The system of claim 9, wherein the sensing portion comprises at least one sensing mechanism utilizing a sensing technique from the group consisting of passive infrared, ultrasound, microwave, radar, infrared, and any combinations thereof.

11. (original) A system for determining whether a resident of a home is inactive within the home or away from the home, comprising:

at least one wireless motion sensor positioned to detect a first activity and to transmit a first signal indicative of the first activity, wherein the at least one wireless motion sensor comprises a timer adapted to run a pre-selected time period after the detection of the first activity;

at least one wireless exterior door sensor positioned to detect motion of an exterior door of the home and to transmit a second signal indicative of the motion;

a communications relay panel for relaying the first and second signals to the monitoring center; and

a monitoring center in communication with the communications relay panel, wherein the monitoring center is adapted to determine whether a resident of the home is inactive within the home or is away from the home based upon the timing of the first signal relative to the second signal.

12. (original) The system of claim 11, wherein the pre-selected time period is no greater than five minutes.

13. (original) The system of claim 11, wherein the at least one wireless motion sensor comprises one or more sensors from the group consisting of inside door sensors, cabinet sensors, kitchen sensors, appliance sensors, cabinet drawer sensors, bed sensors, couch sensors, and chair sensors.

14. (original) The system of claim 11, wherein the at least one wireless motion sensor

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comprises:

a detector for detecting activity, the detector comprising a signal processor and a sensing portion; and

a transmitter for transmitting first signal indicative of the first activity.

15. (original) A system for determining activity states for a home, comprising:

at least one motion sensor positioned to detect an activity event for a home and adapted to transmit a first signal indicative of the activity event;

at least one exterior door sensor positioned to detect an exterior door movement event for the home and adapted to transmit a second signal indicative of the exterior door movement event; and

a monitoring center in communication with the at least one motion sensor and the at least one exterior door sensor, wherein the monitoring center is adapted to determine whether the home is in an active state, a quiet state, or an away state based upon the timing of the first signal relative to the second signal.

16. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the at least one motion sensor comprises:

a detector for detecting activity, the detector comprising a signal processor and a sensing portion; and

a transmitter for transmitting the first signal indicative of the activity event.

17. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein the detector comprises a signal processor and a sensing portion.

18. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the sensing portion comprises at least one sensing mechanism utilizing a sensing technique from the group consisting of passive infrared, ultrasound, microwave, radar, infrared, and any combinations thereof.

19. (original) A method for determining a state of activity within a home, comprising:

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providing at least one motion sensor to detect an activity event within a home and to transmit a first signal indicative of the activity event;

providing at least one exterior door sensor to detect an exterior door movement event at the home and to transmit a second signal indicative of the exterior door movement event; and

determining, with a central processing unit adapted to utilize information from the first and second signals in a state model, whether the home is in an active state, a quiet state, or an away state based upon the timing of the first signal relative to the second signal.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the step to determine whether the home is in an active state comprises ascertaining that the at least one motion sensor has transmitted the first signal.

21. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the step to determine whether the home is in an active state comprises ascertaining that the at least one motion sensor has opened or closed within a pre-determined and configurable period of time.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the at least one motion sensor comprises one or more sensors from the group consisting of inside door sensors, cabinet sensors, kitchen sensors, appliance sensors, cabinet drawer sensors, bed sensors, couch sensors, and chair sensors.

23. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the step to determine whether the home is in an away state comprises ascertaining the exterior door movement event and ascertaining no activity with the at least one motion sensor prior to exterior door movement event.

24. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the step to determine whether the home is in an away state comprises ascertaining the exterior door movement event and ascertaining closing of the at least one motion sensor within a pre-determined and configurable time period after the exterior door movement event and ascertaining no further movement with the at least one motion sensor within the home thereafter.

25. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the step to determine whether the home is in a quiet state comprises:

ascertaining the home is not in an away state; and

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ascertaining that the at least one motion sensor has closed for a pre-determined and configurable period of time; and

ascertaining that the at least one motion sensor has not opened or closed within the period of time.

26. (original) A method for determining whether a resident is within a home or away from the home, comprising the steps of:

sensing motion within the home;

sending a first signal to a central monitoring center indicating the home is in an active state;

starting a timer for a pre-determined period of time, wherein upon expiration of the pre-determined period of time without sensing any further motion within the home, sending a second signal to the central monitoring center indicating the home is in a quiet state;

sensing movement of an exterior door to the home and sending a third signal to the central monitoring center indicative of the movement of the exterior door; and

comparing a time of the third signal with the time of the second signal to determine whether a resident of the home has left the home or is inactive within the home.

27. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the sending of the first and second signals is accomplished by wirelessly sending the first and second signals to a communications relay panel and subsequently sending the first and second signals to the central monitoring center.

28. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the watching is accomplished with a sensor utilizing a sensing technique from the group consisting of passive infra-red, ultrasound, microwave, radar, infra-red, and any combinations thereof.